NEFRC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting



Northeast Florida Regional Council

Hybrid Meeting Virtual & In-Person



- (40 East Adams St., Ste 320, Jacksonville, FL 32202
- (Phone: (904)-279-0880
- www.nefrc.org
- info@nefrc.org



Proudly serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 5, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FROM:

RE: **NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Clay County. This meeting will be held IN-PERSON ONLY, at the Department of Health-Clay County, 1845 Town Center Blvd., Building 600, Fleming Island, FL 32003.

Northeast Florida Regional Council

BOARD of DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Zoom Link: https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491 **Zoom Dial In** #: 1-786-635-1003 (or) 1-470-250-9358 **Meeting ID**: 816 0095 0326

> THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 10:00 a.m.

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD) (*Denotes Action Required)

TAB

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Ι.	Call	to	Ord	er

6.

- 2. Welcome / Roll Call President Whitehurst
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation President Whitehurst
- 4. Invitation to Speak President Whitehurst

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council. The public will be recognized during public comments. At that time, virtual attendees who would like to speak will be asked to raise their (electronic) hand and they will be recognized in the order of response.

*5. Consent Agenda – President Whitehurst

A.	June 6, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes	1
В.	July 2024 Financial Report	2
C.	Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review Report	3
	• City of Jacksonville/Duval County Transmitted Amendment 24-3ESR	
	• City of Bunnell Adopted Amendment Adopted Amendment 24-4ESR	
Otl	ner Reports/Action Items	
A.	Presentation: The Corridor, Trails, and Ecosystem – Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation	ı 4

* C.	FY 24/25 Officer Nominations – Mr. Register_	5
D.	City of Jacksonville's Special Committee to Review Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Primary Facilities Report – Mr. Nolen	6
E	Community Resiliency Update – Ms. Ilami	7
F.	Program Spotlight: Economic Development Update – Ms. Dominguez	8
G	Regional Leadership Academy Update – Mr. Nolen	9
Н	NEFRC Website Update – Mr. Nolen / Ms. Woody	10

7. Public Comment – <u>LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER</u>

- 8. Local & Regional Issues Discussion President Whitehurst
- 9. Ex-Officio Members' Reports:
 - Florida Department of Commerce Mr. Register
 - Florida Department of Transportation Mr. Dixon
 - St. Johns River Water Management District Mr. Conkey

10. Chief Executive Officer's Report – Ms. Payne

11. Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 5, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Duval County
- Sept. 10, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, St. Johns County
- Sept. 11, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Flagler County
- Sept. 11-13, 2024 Florida Resilience Conference in Bonita Springs, FL
- Sept. 12, 2024 City of Palatka DRAFT Vision Plan Presentation to City Commission
- Sept. 12, 2024 St. Augustine Vision Plan Kick-off Meeting, St. Augustine
- Sept. 16, 2024 St. Augustine Vision Plan Meeting #2, St. Augustine
- Sept. 16, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Clay County
- Sept. 16, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Putnam County
- Sept. 19, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Baker County
- Sept. 19, 2024 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coord. Board Meeting, Nassau County
- Sept. 26, 2024 Final Vision Plan Presentation to City Commission, City of Palatka
- Sept. 30, 2024 Regional Community Institute: RLA Graduation/Annual & Board Meetings
- Oct. 2, 2024 St. Augustine Vision Plan Meeting #3, St. Augustine

Upcoming Events (continued)

- Oct. 3, 2024 NEFRC Board Meeting (IN PERSON ONLY), Clay County Dept. of Health
- Oct. 11, 2024 COJ Environmental Symposium at University of North Florida
- Oct. 16, 2024 St. Augustine Vision Plan Meeting #4, St. Augustine
- Oct. 29, 2024 St. Augustine Vision Plan Meeting #5, St. Augustine
- **12.** Next Board Meeting: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

1845 Town Center Boulevard (Building 600)

Fleming Island, FL 32003

13. Adjournment

(*Denotes Action Required)

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting June 6, 2024

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors held a meeting at 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, June 6, 2024; **President Whitehurst** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call was conducted with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER: Commissioner Anderson

Commissioner Bennett

Mr. Register

CLAY: Mr. Bourre

Commissioner Condon

Mr. Kennedy

Commissioner Renninger

DUVAL: Council Member Amaro

Council Member Gay Mayor Lynch (virtual)

FLAGLER: Mayor Alfin

Commissioner Dance Commissioner Sullivan

NASSAU: Mr. Drew (virtual)

Commissioner Martin Vice-Mayor Sturges

PUTNAM: Commissioner Adamczyk (virtual)

Commissioner Harvey (virtual)

ST. JOHNS: Commissioner Alaimo (virtual)

Commissioner Horvath
Commissioner Whitehurst

EX-OFFICIO: Mr. Conkey, St. Johns River Water Management District

Ms. Craver, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (virtual)

Mr. Dixon, Florida Department of Transportation (virtual)

Mr. Hart, Florida Department of Commerce

Excused: Mr. Griffis

Absent: Mayor Brown

Guest: Catherine Hannan, Fish & Wildlife Commission (virtual)

Staff: Eric Anderson, Sheron Forde, Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, et al.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

President Whitehurst stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board. The public will be recognized during public comment.

*CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Presentation: 2024 Hurricane Season

Mr. Scott Cordero, Meteorologist In Charge, National Weather Service – Jacksonville, provided the Council with a presentation on the 2024 Hurricane Season. Discussion followed.

* Proposed FY 23/24 Amended Budget

The fiscal year 23/24 amended budget was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

* Proposed FY 24/25 Budget

The fiscal year 24/25 proposed budget was unanimously approved as presented by all members in attendance.

*Putnam County TD Local Coordinating Board Membership

The Putnam County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Membership was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

Program Spotlight: Flagler Vulnerability Assessments

Ms. Ilami provided information on the work of the Council on Vulnerability Assessments, specifically with Flagler County.

Community Resiliency Update

Ms. Ilami provided an overview of the resiliency activities to date.

Regional Leadership Academy Update

Mr. Nolen provided an update on the Regional Leadership Academy over the last two months.

Public Comment – None.

<u>Local and Regional Issues Discussion</u> – each member in attendance shared information on activities occurring in their county/municipality.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS' REPORT

Updates were provided relating to the Department of Commerce, Department of Environmental Protection, and St. Johns Water Management District.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Payne reported on the signing of the lease for the new Council offices; a new intern from Jacksonville University working on the Ecotourism and Trails project; and that the CEO evaluation will be emailed in July for review in August by the Executive Committee. She also informed the Members of the cancellation of the July Council meeting; the September meeting to include an open house for the new offices; technical assistance to local governments; and completion of the Special Committee work for the City of Jacksonville's Sheriff Office.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be September 5, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:59 a.m.

Christian Whitehurst President Elizabeth Payne Chief Executive Officer

Agenda Item

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER THRU:

Donna Starling, Chief Financial Officer FROM:

RE: **JULY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council posted a Net Income of \$11,823 for the month of July and a Year-to-Date Net Income of \$117,153.

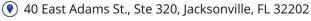
Regional Council - Agencywide	Bı	Adopted udget 23/24	J	uly 2024	YTD	Represents 83% of Fiscal Year	Budget Variance
Revenues							
County Dues	\$	694,757		57,896	578,964	83%	0%
Local Government Technical Assistance	\$	452,672		37,247	282,593	62%	-21%
Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)	\$	182,895		17,583	145,418	80%	-3%
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$	70,000		9,975	58,097	83%	0%
Hazardous Analysis	\$	14,077		2,172	11,526	82%	-1%
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC)	\$	77,000		6,350	69,741	91%	8%
Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Program	\$	95,355		6,720	65,852	69%	-14%
Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program	\$	5,000		4,800	4,800	96%	13%
Florida Department of Health	\$	17,000		301	5,180	30%	-53%
Healthcare Coalition	\$	748,712		21,469	663,146	89%	6%
CDBG North Florida Resiliency Plan	\$	245,774		16,691	203,317	83%	0%
CDBG Mitigation Assessment and Planning	\$	60,000		2,600	31,794	53%	-30%
Florida Hospital Association	\$	132,848		-	132,848	100%	17%
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	\$	328,573		22,171	293,096	89%	6%
National Coastal Resilience Program	\$	-		573	1,095	0%	-83%
Disaster Recovery Coordinator	\$	87,000		6,161	68,165	78%	-5%
Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)	\$	4,900		556	3,788	77%	-6%
Other Revenue	\$	72,944		1,897	77,812	107%	24%
							_
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	3,289,507	\$	215,162	\$ 2,697,232	82%	
TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND	\$	(85,637)	\$	(11,823)	\$ (117,153)		
TOTAL REVENUE/GENERAL FUND	\$	3,203,870	\$	203,339	\$ 2,580,079	81%	
Expenses							
Salaries and Fringe	\$	1,753,416		134,911	1,400,090	80%	-3%
Contract/Grant Direct Expenses	\$	983,734		46,038	851,613	87%	4%
Indirect - Allocated Expenses*	\$	211,580		10,439	156,680	74%	-9%
General Fund Expense*	\$	255,140		11,950	171,696	67%	-16%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	3,203,870	\$	203,339	\$ 2,580,079	81%	
Net Income (loss)	\$	85,637		11,823	\$ 117,153		

Northeast Florida Regional Council Balance Sheet July 2024

	FY 22/23 July 2023	FY 23/24 July 2024
ASSETS		
Cash	2,117,756	1,940,218
Accounts Receivable	629,934	912,029
Pension Deferred Outflows	439,576	425,550
WJCT Security Deposit	7,400	7,400
Total Current Assets	3,194,666	3,285,197
Property and Equipment:		
Office Furniture and Equipment	298,869	328,898
Less Accumulated Depreciation	199,210	215,040
Total Property and Equipment, net	99,659	113,858
rotar roporty and Equipmont, not		110,000
Total Assets	3,294,325	3,399,056
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	2,407	24,439
Accrued Salaries and Leave	103,194	120,558
Deferred Revenue	188,251	154,858
Pension Liability	1,087,234	1,355,550
Pension Deferred Inflows	56,671	49,234
Total Liabilities	1,437,757	1,704,639
EQUITY Equity and Other Credits:		
Retained Earnings	1,856,568	1,694,417
Total Equity and Other Credits	1,856,568	1,694,417
Total Liabilities, Equity and		
Other Credits	3,294,325	3,399,056

YTD Comparison

	22/23 Net Income (Loss)		23/24 Net Income (Loss)		22/23 sh Balance	Ca	23/24 sh Balance
AGENCYWIDE							
October	\$ 3,147	\$	9,014	\$	2,480,421	\$	2,430,628
November	\$ 10,292	\$	28,148	\$	2,548,733	\$	2,442,307
December	\$ 21,445	\$	46,934	\$	2,427,805	\$	2,254,171
January	\$ 29,526	\$	54,754	\$	2,516,530	\$	2,330,658
February	\$ 44,710	\$	70,318	\$	2,488,934	\$	2,188,836
March	\$ 65,477	\$	86,943	\$	2,237,393	\$	2,021,882
April	\$ 82,390	\$	79,901	\$	2,354,111	\$	2,077,251
May	\$ 60,665	\$	91,660	\$	2,200,457	\$	2,136,499
June	\$ 75,043	\$	105,330	\$	1,807,496	\$	1,780,669
July	\$ 86,500	\$	117,153	\$	2,117,756	\$	1,940,218
August	\$ 98,379			\$	2,360,077		
September	\$ 82,101			\$	2,137,575		





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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS To:

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DS DONNA STARLING, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FROM:

JULY 2024 INVESTMENT REPORT RE:

Bank Account Interest

	FY 22/23	FY 23/24
July Interest	\$ 1,361	\$ 1,491
Year to Date Interest	\$ 8,755	\$ 13,635

Florida Local Government Investment Trust

FY 22/23 FY 23/24

Current Balance \$18,044 \$19,120

Agenda Item

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER THRU:

FROM: ROBERT JORDAN, REGIONAL PLANNER Robert C. Jordan

RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEWS

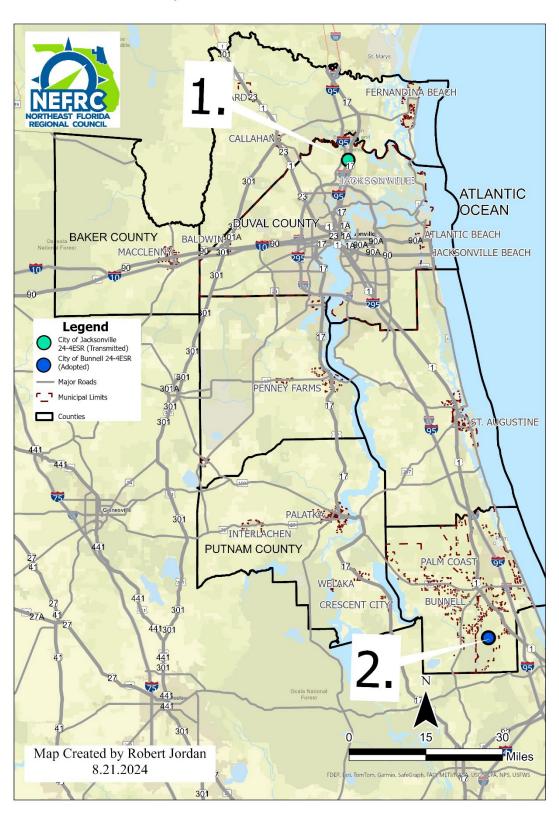
Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of transmitted and adopted amendments to local government comprehensive plans is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The review is also limited to extra-jurisdictional impacts that are inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the region. Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, a written report with an impact evaluation should be provided to the local government and the State land planning agency (Florida Commerce) within 30 calendar days of receipt (of the amendment). A regional map of the listed amendments is provided on the next page, and the site-specific maps and policy text are provided in the appendix herein. Upon approval of this report by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Board of Directors for transmittal to the State land planning agency, a copy will be provided to the respective local government.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully recommends that the NEFRC Board of Directors approve the staff review report for the City of Jacksonville Transmitted Amendment 24-3ESR. Staff also respectfully recommends that the NEFRC Board of Directors concur that the City of Bunnell Adopted Amendment 24-4ESR is consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

REGIONAL MAP OF AMENDMENT LOCATION SITES

September 2024 Board Comprehensive Plan Amendments



Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
The City of Jacksonville 24-3ESR	1	X		Duval	9-6-2024	Ordinance 2024-454-E

• **Type:** Future Land Use

- **Issue:** This proposed future land use map amendment changes approximately 1,004 from Multi-Use pursuant to Future Land Use Element Policy (FLUE) 4.3.15. and Light Industrial to Conservation, Light Industrial, Community General Commercial, Medium Density Residential, and Low Density Residential.
- **Background:** The approximately 1,004-acre subject site is undeveloped land located in the North Planning District. The site is located at Pecan Park Road, a collector road, and Main Street North (U.S. 17), a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Principal Arterial. The site is between Interstate 95 and Main Street North. The subject property is located within the Suburban and Rural Development Areas. The applicant is requesting an extension of the Suburban Development Area to cover the entirety of the subject site. The companion PUD rezoning is not required for the transmittal review and will be submitted with the adoption of this amendment. For additional information, please see Maps 1-2 in the appendix. The Site-Specific FLUE Policy 4.3.15. is no longer relevant and has been removed by this amendment.
- Impacts: The subject site is located on Pecan Road and U.S. 17, both Transportation Resources of Regional Significance. Based on a trip generation estimate comparing the current and proposed comprehensive plan land uses and the potential impacts on the roadway network, the development has the potential to increase daily trips between 8,741 to 12,696. The Jacksonville Transportation Planning Division recommends ongoing coordination of efforts with the City of Jacksonville Transportation Engineer and the Florida Department of Transportation to ensure that a traffic operational analysis is provided to address the specific external impacts as a result of this land use amendment. The site is also located within the 300-foot and 150-foot height and hazard zone of the Jacksonville International Airport, a Transportation Resource of Regional Significance. Zoning will limit the development to a maximum height of 300 or 150 feet, respectively, unless approved by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority or the Federal Aviation Administration.
- Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination: Considering the proximity of the subject site to Nassau County, the NEFRC recommends that the City coordinate with the Nassau County Planning Department regarding this proposed amendment.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
The City of Bunnell 24- 4ESR	2		X	Flagler	9-6-2024	Ordinance 2024-11

• **Type:** Future Land Use

- **Issue:** This is an administrative proposal for a large-scale comprehensive plan amendment to the City's Future Land Use map to change the map for approximately 31,174 acres from "Conservation-One" and "Conservation-Two" to "Agriculture & Silviculture" and "Conservation" for various properties held in multiple ownerships. These map changes were required to implement the comprehensive plan amendments made in Phase "3A" of the mass rezoning effort. Those changes included text changes to the Future Land Use Element that eliminated the "Conservation-One" future land use map designation and renamed "Conservation-Two" as simply "Conservation".
- Background: The City of Bunnell annexed thousands of acres of land into its corporate limits in 2006-2007. The City's comprehensive plan was amended to provide future land use designations for the annexed land. The City of Bunnell embarked on this 3-phase mass rezoning effort to remedy this situation. The City's planning consult was directed to assign proposed Bunnell zoning classifications based on the Future Land Use Map in the City of Bunnell Comprehensive Plan 2035. This is in conformance with Florida law which mandates that all land development regulations, including the official zoning map, must be consistent with the City's comprehensive plan. When city staff started the mass rezoning project, they discovered that many landowners didn't know that parts of their property had long been categorized as "Conservation-One." Even though this designation allowed for agricultural and residential uses, it was quite contentious and nearly jeopardized the mass rezoning project. After a series of public meetings with various landowners, it was determined that the City would remove the "Conservation-One" future land use designation from properties within the City as the final phase of the mass rezoning effort.

Phase 1 targeted properties that retained county zoning but had no city zoning designations and did not involve any properties with conservation designations. This phase set the precedent for subsequent rezonings and was completed in August 2022.

Phase 2 commenced shortly after Phase 1, encompassing properties excluded from the first phase due to their partial conservation designations. This phase rezoned the non-conservation portion of the properties held out from Phase 1 This phase was concluded in September 2023. Staff held a workshop on April 9, 2023. All the owners of properties included in Phases 2 & 3 were notified of the workshop. At the workshop, City Staff and ZCA personnel reviewed the annexation history of the properties, and the results of Phase 1 of the mass rezoning, described the plans for Phases 2 & 3, and answered questions.

Phase "3-A" addressed text changes to the comprehensive plan policies within the Future Land Use and the Conservation Elements to remove the "Conservation-One" future land use designation, rename the "Conservation-Two" as simply "Conservation" and allow the City to rely on state and federal wetland regulations procedures. There were no changes to the amendment since the transmittal of the amendment. Please see Exhibit 3 for additional information.

• **Impacts:** There were no impacts to Resources of Regional Significance or extra-jurisdictional impacts that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan of an affected local government identified by Staff.

Comprehensiv	ed Intergovernment ve Plan, no intergove	ernmental coordin	nation is recomm	ended by Staff.	

Appendix

Exhibit 1: City of Jacksonville 24-3ESR (Location Map)

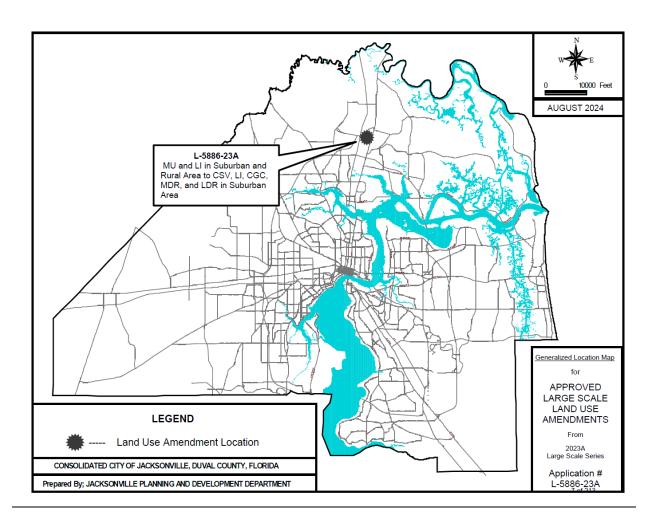


Exhibit 2: City of Jacksonville 24-3ESR (Existing and Proposed Future Land Use Maps)

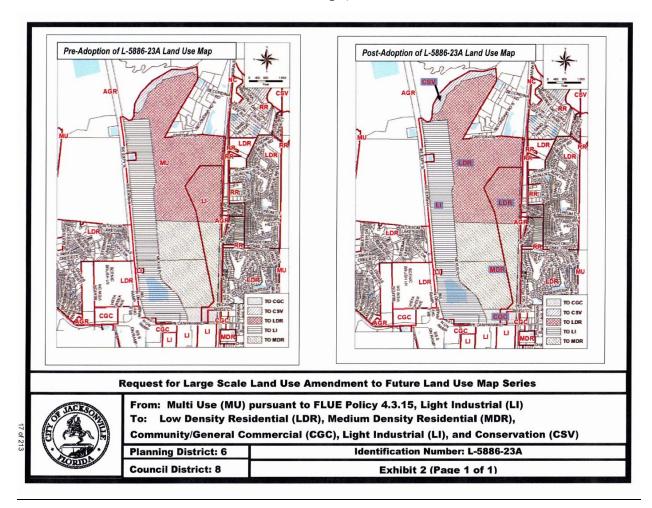
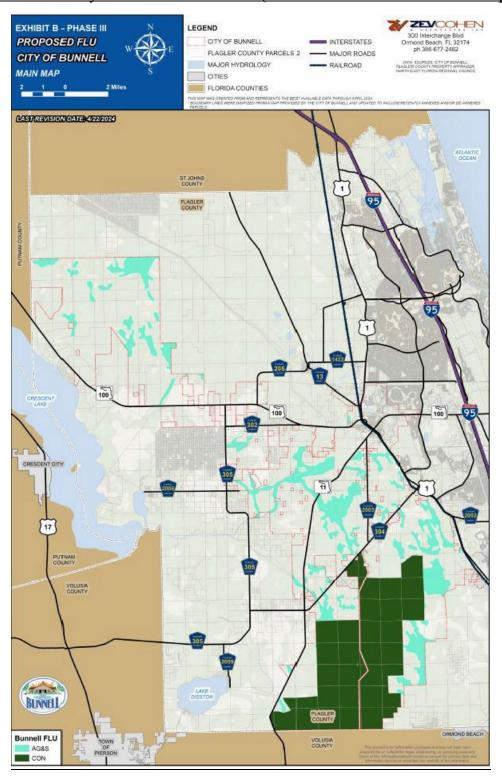


Exhibit 3: City of Bunnell 24-4ESR (Amended Future Land Use Map)



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER THRU:

CASSIDY TAYLOR, POST-DISASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY COORDINATOR FROM:

RE: PRESENTATION: THE CORRIDOR, TRAILS, AND ECOSYSTEM

Mr. Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer at the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, will provide a presentation on the Florida Wildlife Corridor, trails, and the ecosystem. Council staff will also provide a brief update on how the Council's work plan on trails and ecotourism complements the efforts of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.



Jason Lauritsen; Chief Conservation Officer - Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation

Jason Lauritsen is the Chief Conservation Officer of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (Corridor Foundation) where he oversees the organizations land and water protection, science, stewardship and community relationships for the Corridor Foundation. He sits on the Office of Greenways and Trails Council, the Florida Transportation Plan Environmental Partners Working Group and is a part of the Statewide Bear Technical Assistance Group. Prior to joining the Corridor Foundation, he was the Director of Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Lauritsen has worked in restoration, education, research, policy and ecotourism. Lauritsen holds a Master's in Science Education from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor's in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University.















Our appreciation of the beauty of wild Florida..

..often does not translate to understanding its value





Our Mission

champion a collaborative campaign to permanently **connect**, **protect** and **restore** the Florida Wildlife Corridor

Inspiration • Education • Advocacy







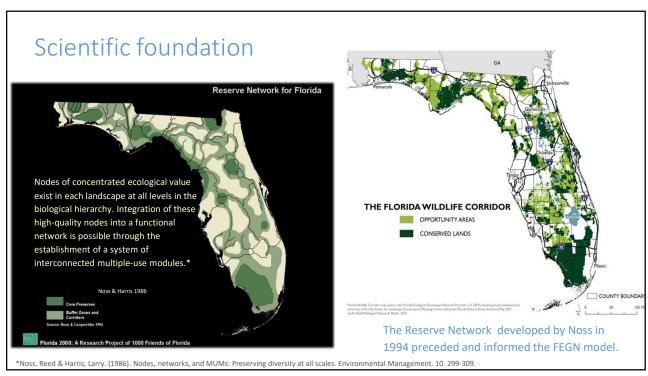


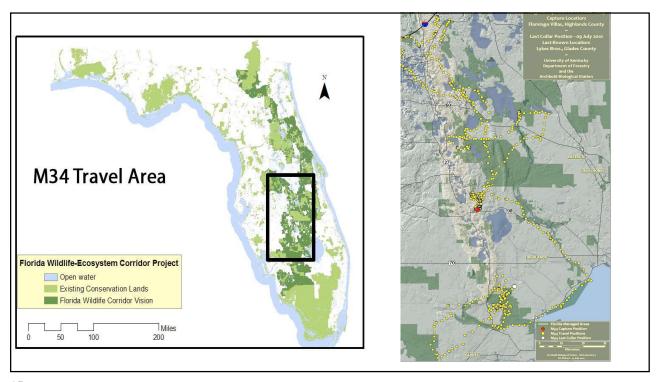
The Florida Wildlife Corridor is an 18 million acre footprint of connected land and water..

..representing our best opportunity to safeguard a biodiverse and sustainable wild Florida for future generations.



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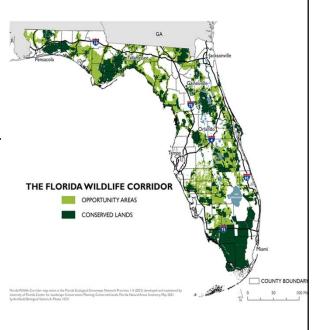
Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) model

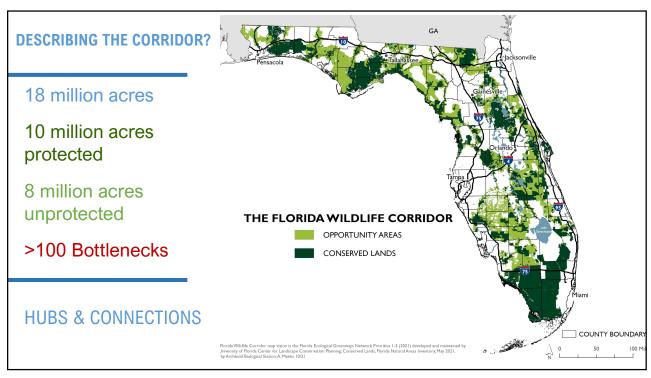
was created using...

- •26 Priority Ecological Area data layers
- •7 connectivity models

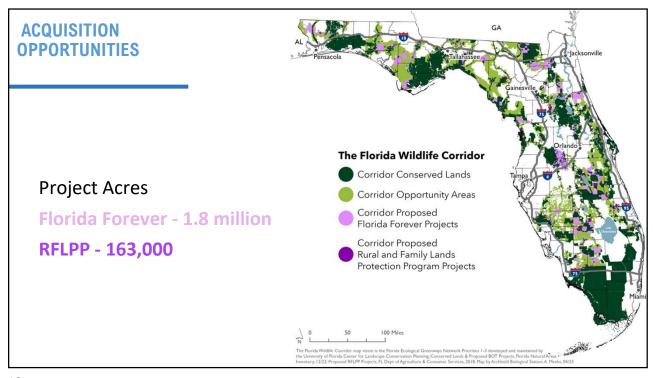
These data were used to identify a series of hubs, or core areas, of large, landscape-scale ecological significance, and a network of corridors connecting the hubs into a statewide ecological greenways system.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is composed of the top 3 priority layers from the FEGN model.





75 State Parks 171 Major* Springs 32 State Forests 18 million acres Unprotected: 8 million acres Protected: 10 million acres Protected: 10 million acres





Every year we lose some of it..

Every year we save some of it..

It's not just about how many acres we lose or save.

... it's also very much about where those lost acres are within the Corridor.



21



Networks of connected and protected areas are inherently more resilient than individual, isolated patches.

Patch size - Large? Well connected? Or both?

Ecosystems are more resilient when conserved in large, unfragmented areas.* Generally...

- Isolated habitat patches need to be larger than patches that are connected in order to sustain biotic communities.**
- The ability to recover from a catastrophic episode (hurricane, severe fire, flood, drought) is a resiliency goal. Patch size and connectivity factor into resilience.
- If your habitat patch size decreases, connectivity to the remaining patches becomes more important.

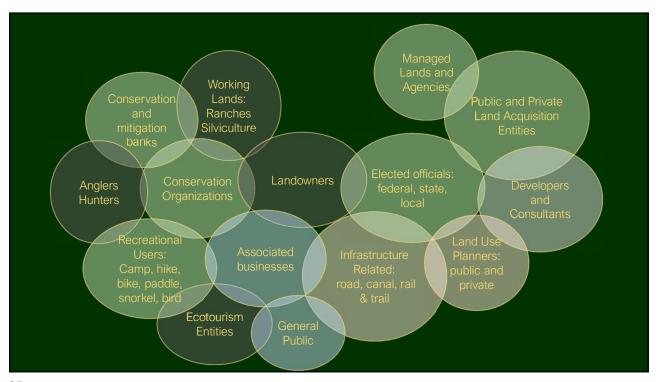
*Walker and Salt 2006 **Rolstad 1991

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Our work ...

- Urgent Corridor Conservation
 - County Strategy
 - Mind the Gaps Workshops
 - Training Module Development and deployment
 - Local Implementation Team
 - Collaboration Teams
 - Critical Linkage Fund
- Advocacy Complete the corridor; connect, protect, restore
- Expeditions and Inspiration





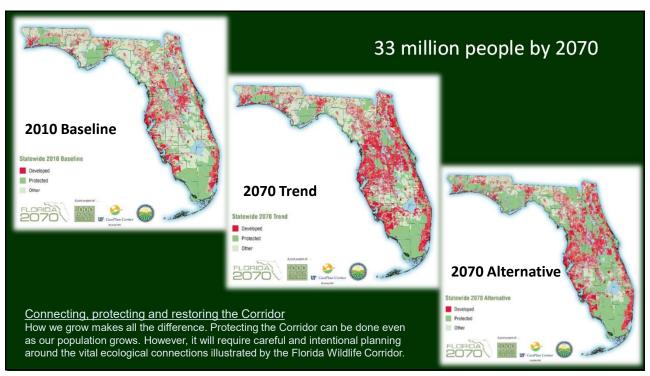






Economic Benefits of the Corridor

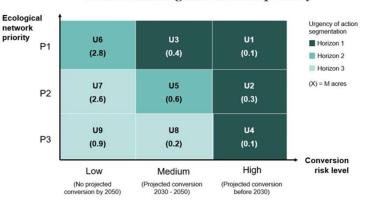
- 114,000+ jobs the Corridor currently provides (directly and indirectly)
- ~ \$4 billion direct annual value in renewable activity
- ~ \$24 billion indirect annual value
- Environmental benefits with economic implications
 - Aquifer recharge
 - Carbon absorption
 - Nutrient filtration
 - Flood, drought mitigation
 - Harmful algae bloom mitigation



Urgency of Loss

We are projected to lose 500,000 acres within the Corridor by 2030 (U1, U2, U4). And by 2050, another 400,000 acres of loss is anticipated in the FEGN Priority 1 layer (U).

[Tiering of the Corridor area by urgency levels considering conversion risk and ecological network priority



* Connecting the Florida Wildlife Corridor – Economic Study 2021

31

Conversion hotspots and bottlenecks

Prioritizing conservation actions within the 8-millionacre opportunity area is critical to effectively deploying limited resources over a compressed time horizon.

The Corridor map contains more than 100 segments that have stretches of narrow areas less than a mile wide. These bottlenecks are especially vulnerable to fragmentation.

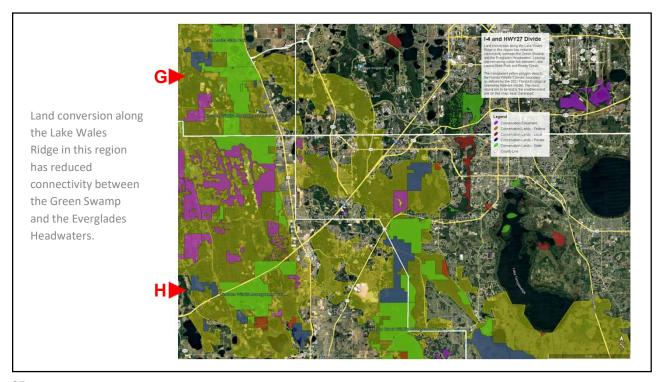
Approximately 900,000 acres have been identified as the most urgent areas of the state in need of protection. 500,000 of these risk conversion by 2030.

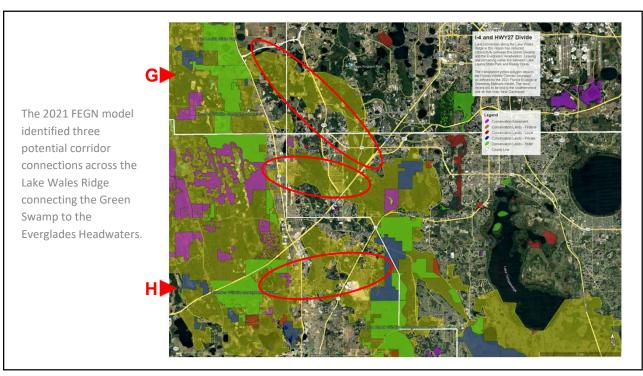
While some of these lands are dispersed widely throughout the state. There are concentrations in certain sections of the Corridor worthy of our attention.

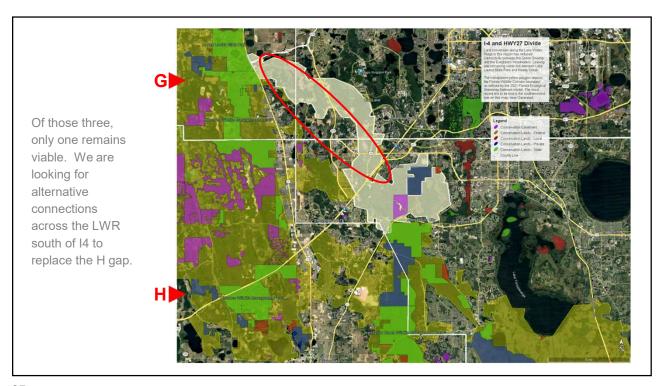






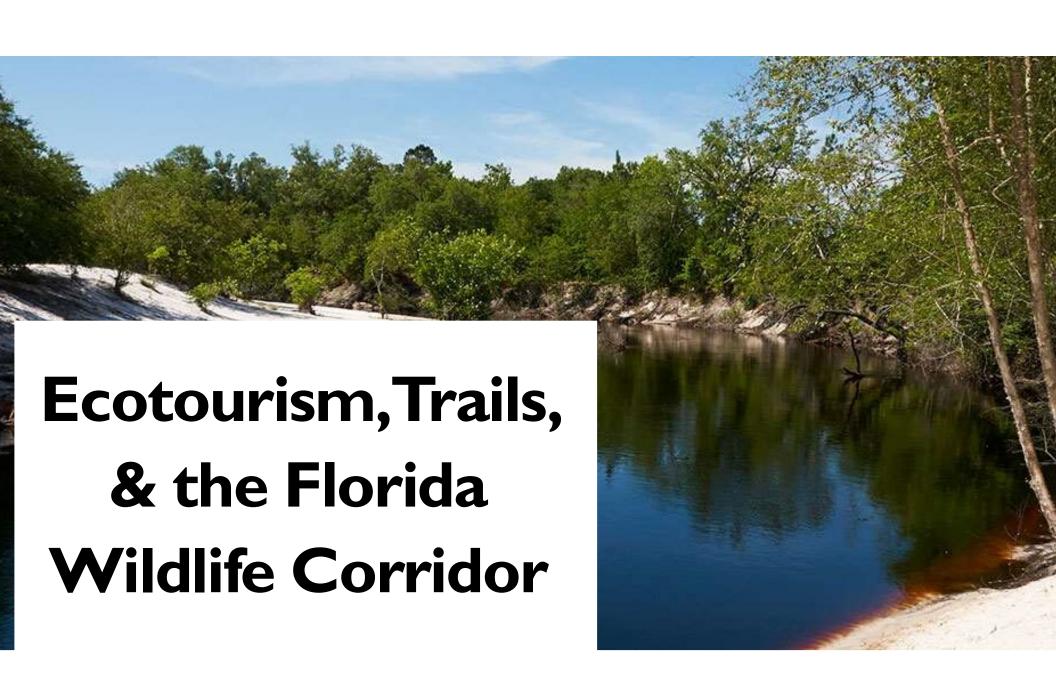






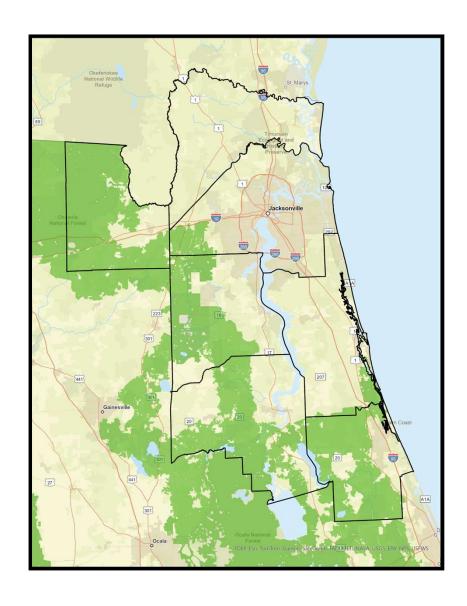






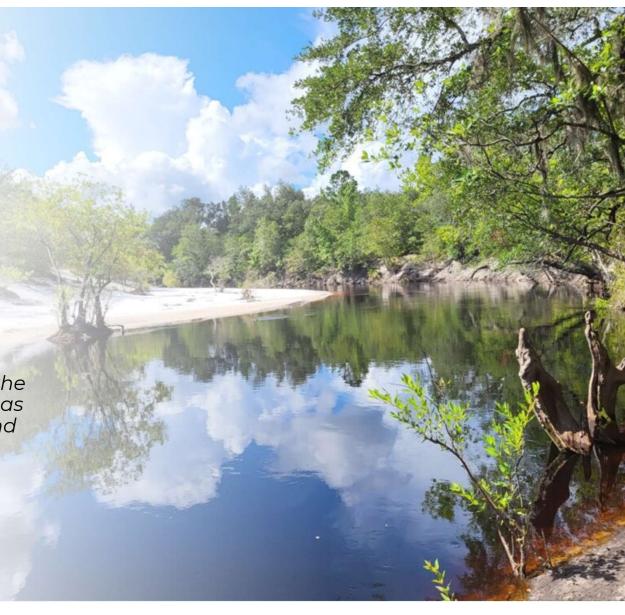
The Wildlife Corridor in Northeast Florida

- Covers 6 of 7 counties in Northeast Florida
- Overlaps with state SUNTrails, like the River to Sea Loop
- NEFRC staff are members of the Florida Wildlife Corridor's Trails Collaboration Team



Trails Collaboration Team

"There is considerable interest and funding to accelerate trails projects within Florida. A goal of this new Collaboration Team will be to align efforts around trail prioritization and the identification of opportunities, as well as establishing a process to recognize and assess potential impacts."



REGIONAL WORK PLAN

Consensus on Future Trail Locations -Integrates Overland and Blue Trails

Trail Signage

GIS Mapping, Storyboards, and Website

Regional Marketing

Trail Town

Designations through

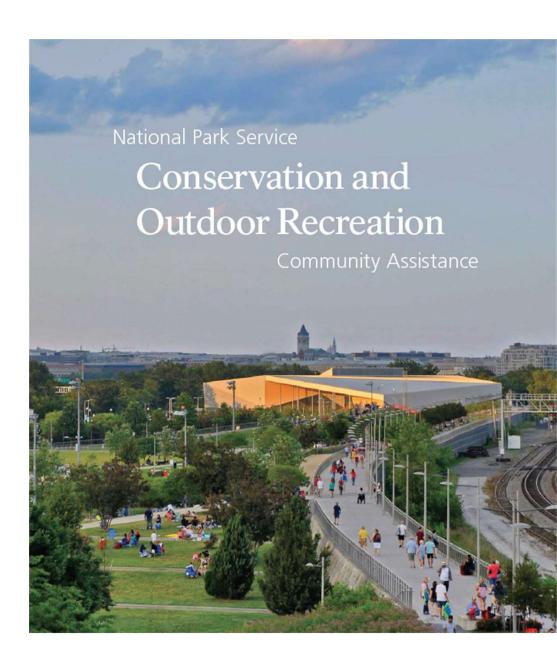
FDEP

Youth Stewardship Program

Funding Opportunities



Leveraging Resources and Subject Matter Experts





- Support locally led projects and assist communities with conservation and outdoor recreation projects. NPS-RTCA provides professional planning, design, and technical expertise to help achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision.
- The NPS-RTCA model is to combine the skills of our staff with those of your organization. It's a partnership – we work alongside your team and local knowledge experts to assist with the work that you are leading.

NE Florida is 1 of 5 target areas

Biggest geography & most diverse projects

An 8-person team assisting Florida projects

36-month project once funding is approved

Awaiting funding approval but is starting local site visits in October

Status Update

4 Projects Identified for Support

Facilitating conceptual planning for Shoals Park and developing a water trail in Baker and Nassau Counties

Support conceptual planning on FEMA-acquired parcels for developing conservation and outdoor recreation. This project would assist Welaka, Putnam County, with community design and public access solutions that comply with FEMA policies.

Marketing & outreach in promoting outdoor recreation in Duval County

Investigate and develop trail standards and ordinances for coastal dunes in St. Johns County

Trails & Ecotourism Update

Questions?



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MEMORANDUM

AUGUST 28, 2024 DATE:

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: NEFRC Personnel, Budge & Finance Policy Committee

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FY 2024-2025 RE:

Ther Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee will nominate the Board Officers for FY 2024-25 for consideration by the full Board.

Consistent with the adopted NEFRC Leadership Rotation Schedule, Clay County holds the President position, Baker County holds the 1st Vice President position, and the City of Jacksonville holds the 2nd Vice President position.

With that in mind, and based on previous discussions, the slate of officers for the 2024-25 year are:

Honorable James Renninger, Clay County - President

Honorable James Bennett, Baker County – 1st Vice President

Honorable Ken Amaro, City of Jacksonville – 2nd Vice President

Mr. Darryl Register, Baker County, Secretary Treasurer

Once approved by the Committee, the slate of officers will go to the full Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, the incoming officers will be seated at the October 3rd meeting.

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: **AUGUST 28, 2024**

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: TYLER NOLEN, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR / N

RE: CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE JACKSONVILLE

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRIMARY FACILITIES REPORT

Over the past year, NEFRC staff have provided administrative support to a Special Committee of the City of Jacksonville's City Council in their review of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Primary Facilities. Under the direction of then-City Council President Ronald Salem and Special Committee Chair Michael Boylan, NEFRC staff assisted the Committee with its charge to "understand and assess the challenges faced with the existing facilities and envision what should be built to meet future needs, based upon the changing culture surrounding incarceration, particularly as it relates to those housed suffering from mental and behavioral health issues."

This process included a seven-month investigative effort, which featured over 30 fact-finding meetings across five working groups and culminated in NEFRC staff producing a Final Report for the committee, which was presented to the Jacksonville City Council in June 2024.





Special Committee Charge

- Committee Charge: "Explore the location, cost, healthcare, mental healthcare, and other issues involved in relocating the jail and administration Building" Council President Ronald Salem 8/10/23
- Amended Charge by Chair Boylan (8/16/24) "Understand and assess the challenges faced with the existing facilities and envisioning what should be built to meet future needs, based upon the changing culture surrounding incarceration, particularly as it relates to those housed suffering from mental and behavioral health issues."

Special Committee Working Groups

The working groups:

- Administrative Services (CM Boylan)
- Existing Facility Improvements (CVP White)
- Holistic Services (CM Johnson, PhD)
- Housing and Custody (CM Miller)
- Adjudication, Intake, and Recidivism (CM Peluso)



3

Timeline of the Special Committee

- The working groups conducted exploratory meetings from August 2023- February 2024 (seven months)
- Northeast Florida Regional Council created the final report and presented the report to City Council





Local Facilities Toured







John E. Goode Pre-Trial Detention Facility (PTDF)



James I. Montgomery Correctional Center



Duval County Courthouse

5

Administrative Services Working Group

- · Held 6 meetings
- · Key take aways:
 - A facility would need a minimum of 281,000 sq ft to meet JSO current staffing
 - Current facility is entirely inadequate for JSO (i.e. Office space, maintenance & parking)
 - Leasing a new facility is the best path forward for JSO and the City.

Working Group Members

Chair: CM Michael Boylan Co-Chair: Ryan Sitnik, Gilbane Building Co. Director Larry Schmitt, Police Services, JSO Chief Deloris O'Neal, Support Services, JSO Chief Bill Clement, Budget Division, JSO Asst. Chief Scott Dingee, Police Services, JSO

Ben Carder, JSO Facilities Manager

Jeremy Wright, Downtown Facilities Manager (Public Works)

Improvements to the Existing Facilities WG

- Held 2 meetings and 2 tours of the PTDF
- · Key take away:
 - \$9 million in emergency funding introduced by the Special Committee and approved by City Council to address deferred maintenance

Working Group Members

Chair: CVP Randy White

Co-Chair: Assist Chief R.W. Long, Corrections Support Services, JSO Sergeant Aaron Park, Corrections Support Services, JSO

7

Holistic Facilities Working Group

- · Held 5 meetings
- · Key take aways:
 - Need for an infirmary within the facility, including an array of diagnostic equipment
 - Mental Health services for inmates and JSO corrections staff
 - A trauma informed design
 - The inclusion and programming of multipurpose rooms

Working Group Member

Chair: CM Rahman Johnson, PhD

Housing and Custody Working Group

- Held 5 meetings
- Key take aways:
 - Ensure adequate recreational spaces
 - No dorms larger than 12 cells, housing 24-36 inmates total
 - Separate mental/behavioral health wing
 - Multipurpose rooms
 - Creation of inmate specific internet network for learning capabilities

Working Group Members

Chair: CM Chris Miller

Asst. Chief Adrian L. O'Neal, PDF Custody and Housing, JSO
Dan Lee, Director of Preconstruction, Perry McCall Construction

9

Adjudication, Intake, and Recidivism WG

- Held 9 meetings
- Key take aways:
 - Need for technology to reduce dependance of paper documents & improve client and attorney communication
 - Improve design of the intake area to ease JSO processes
- Diversion Programs
 - Reviewed the use of diversion programs allowed by Florida Statue to reduce the burden on the jail by decreasing the number of inmates

Working Group Members

Chair: CM Jimmy Peluso

Co-Chair: Charlie Cofer, Public Defender's Office

Reggie Fullwood, Operation New Hope

Chief Kina Paschal, Programs & Transitional Services, JSO

Moné Holder, Florida Rising

Coral Messina, State Attorney's Office, 4th Judicial Circuit

David Kilcrease, MHOP Court Coordinator

Collective Findings

Facility Layout

- Low rise structure (maximum of 2 floors)
- Campus style arrangement
- Ability for future expansion (as need dictates)
- Use of Multipurpose rooms

Maintenance and Repair Needs

- Design maintenance capabilities into new build that allow for maintenance/repairs without needing to enter inmate cells
- Additional maintenance staff to expand to 24/hr coverage

Healthcare

- The need for an infirmary with an array of appropriate equipment
- Mental and Behavioral Health overhaul

Technology Systems

- Reduce the need for paper documents for inmate records
- Modernize surveillance cameras and cell door locks
- Equipment to assist in client and attorney communications

11

Next Steps

Asset Mapping of Partnerships

 Establish a comprehensive list and commitment of partners to provide support to individuals in the criminal justice system to enhance warm handoffs to improve the effectiveness and participation in programs aimed at rehabilitation.

• Blue-Ribbon Committee

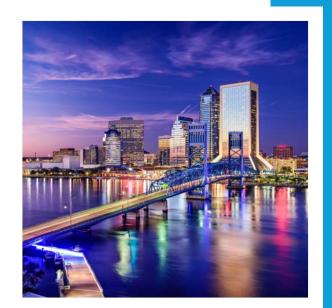
 Establish a committee to oversee the build of a new jail facility with representation from the Mayor's Office, City Council, JSO, 4TH Judicial Circuit, City Engineering, Gateway Community Services, Sulzbacher Center, Northeast Florida Builders Association, School District, UF Health and NaphCare, among others.

Procurement and Construction

- Finalize the appropriate procurement method
- Phase 1: Pre-Design Planning (4-6 months)
- Phase 2: Facility Design (14-18 months)
- Phase 3: Construction, Building Commissioning and Post Construction (3-years)

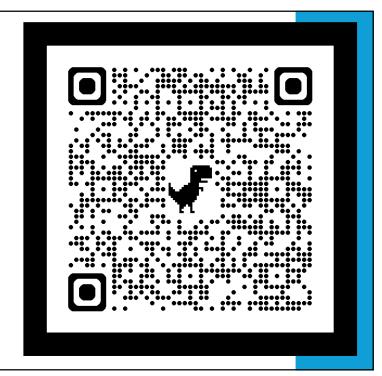
In Progress and Pending

- Emergency funding to address PTDF Deferred Maintenance
 - 63% spent as of 6/1/24
- \$5 million city permit issued to remodel space in the Florida Blue Riverside Office Complex in Brooklyn neighborhood
- Establish Blue-Ribbon Committee
- Change of Culture: "Focus on the creation of facilities that shift from punitive measures to rehabilitation, with aim of reducing recidivism rates among individuals interfacing with the criminal justice system"



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Final Report



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: FARA ILAMI, REGIONAL RESILIENCY MANAGER

RE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on community resilience efforts being facilitated across Northeast Florida. This update will highlight the recent completion and award earned for the Regional Resiliency Action Plan, Phase I, in conjunction with Resilient First Coast, and other components of the Regional Resiliency Entity grant funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, including inter-jurisdictional coordination, local knowledge building sessions centered around vulnerability assessments, and regional critical asset evaluation.

The update will cover progress on local government Vulnerability Assessments being conducted around the region, as well as a compound flooding analysis. It will also focus on how stakeholders and NEFRC staff are selecting Regional Priority Areas for 2-3 specific small area mitigation plans as part of the Multiregional Planning and Mitigation Assessment project. It will also cover projects the NEFRC is collaborating on with external partners, including the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant project and the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative project. The status of the Military Installation Resiliency Review will also be provided.

Staff will announce upcoming resiliency-related events, including conferences, meetings, and symposia.





Community Resiliency Update

NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2023-24 DEVELOPMENTS

Resilient First Coast

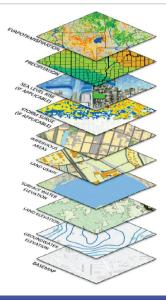


Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP):

- \circ Phase I complete; Steering Committee approved with very minor revisions on August 28th, 2024
- NADO award for Phase I
- Starting Phase II this month
 - Specific actions for each objective
 - Metrics for measuring success of actions
 - Incorporation of Vulnerability Assessments

Full Collaborative to meet in November 2024

Vulnerability Assessments



Flagler County:

- VA almost complete
- · Compound Flooding Analysis halfway complete

Baker County:

VA Halfway complete

Town of Baldwin:

Application submitted for funding of VA

CDBG Multiregional Project



GIS Analysis:

Almost complete

Selection of 2-3 Priority Areas:

 $\circ\,$ Halfway complete, based on stakeholder input meeting

Small Area Mitigation Plans:

To begin in December 2024

Other Projects





Clean Air Northeast Florida:

 Held kickoff meeting for Comprehensive Climate Action Plan on August 29, 2024

South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative:

 Working with North Florida Land Trust and Gullah Geechee Cultural Community Trust

Looking Ahead



Working towards Military Installation Resilience Review

Recruiting Environmental Leadership student from UNF:

 Project will focus on needs related to Resiliency and Ecotourism and Trails

Working with City of Jacksonville on River Accord:

NEFRC providing information pertaining to resilience and flooding

Upcoming Events:

- Florida Resilience Conference (September 11-13, 2024)
- Environmental Symposium (October 11, 2024)
- Flooding Adaptation Symposium (October 28-31, 2024)

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BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER THRU:

MONICA DOMINGUEZ, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER FROM:

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on economic development projects including the City of Palatka Vision Plan, St. Augustin Vision Plan Update, the Northeast Florida Shrimping Industry Market Study, and the Town of Welaka Historic Properties Survey.







Economic Development Program Update

NEFRC Board of Directors Presentation September 5, 2024



1

The City of Palatka Vision Plan



Project Summary: A Vision Plan for Palatka



- ❖ NEFRC was contracted to develop a vision plan to define the community's preferences and desires for the city's future in the next 10 – 20 years.
- ❖ The vision will provide a "road map" for the comprehensive plan update.

2

Project Implementation



- ❖ 8 public meetings in numerous locations
- Online Survey using Mentimeter404 surveys issued49% of respondents were youth
- Collated over 1,500 public comments
- Developed Vision Narrative for the City of Palatka

Δ

City of St. Augustine Vision Plan Update



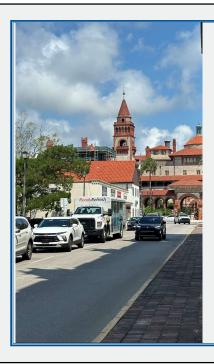
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The City of St. Augustine has changed since 2014

St. Augustine's 2014 and Beyond Vision Plan has been a foundational document.

St. Augustine wants to update the vision plan to include community feedback, goals, and objectives to guide the community in the coming years.





NEFRC will:

- Conduct 6 Public Meetings
- Meet and present to 4 Boards/ Commissions
 - Planning and Zoning Board
 - Historic Architectural Review Board
 - Corridor Review Committee
 - St. Augustine City Commission.
- Develop a Community Vision
 Statement and confirm themes

7

COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Kick-off Meeting 1 – September 5, 2024 @ St. Johns County Main Library from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm

Meeting 2 - September 16, 2024 @ St. Augustine Yacht Club from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Meeting 3 – October 2, 2024 @ Willie Galimore Community Center from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Meeting 4 – October 16, 2024 @ Waterworks Building at 184 San Marco Avenue from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm

Meeting 5 – October 29, 2024 @ Shiloh Baptist Church at 271 King St. from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Final Community Meeting 6 – November 13, 2024 @ Lightner Museum Alcazar Room from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.





The Northeast Florida Shrimping Industry Market Study

FLORIDACOMMERCE

9

SHRIMPING STUDY: PROJECT SUMMARY

- NEFRC received \$44,000 from the Department of Commerce.
- The Study will cover Duval, Flagler, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties
- The study will:
 - Support the expansion of small shrimping business
 - Encourage the use of market-friendly and sustainable shrimping practices and strengthen the regional food economy



SHRIMPING STUDY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1 – Background research on existing market conditions

Phase 2 – Five visioning sessions with stakeholders

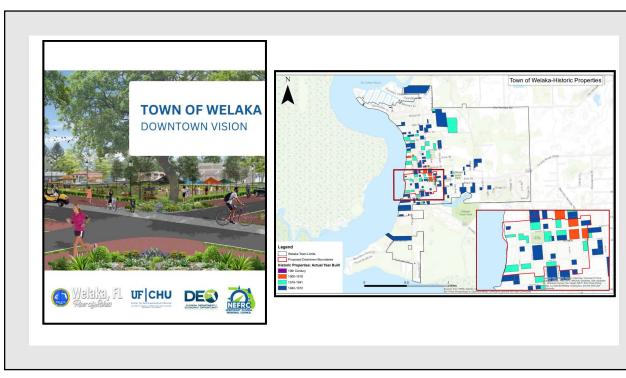
Phase 3 – market study and final meeting



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The Town of Welaka Historic Property Survey





Project Summary: Welaka Historic Properties Survey



- Partnership with UF's Faculty of Architecture
- Engage with Welaka's Historic Board
- Connect with Fruitland Peninsula Historical Soc.



- 158 Florida Master Site File (FMSF) Surveys
- ❖ GIS date for the 158 FMSF
- Continue preserving Welaka's character and charm

REMI: Economic Modeling



15

Projects we're working on





- ❖ Project Link JAX USA
- Thrasher-Horne Center Clay County
- ❖ Lautrec Flagler County
- Continuing to work on JAX USA's summaries to be used in their Annual Report.

QUESTIONS



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: TYLER NOLEN, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR / //

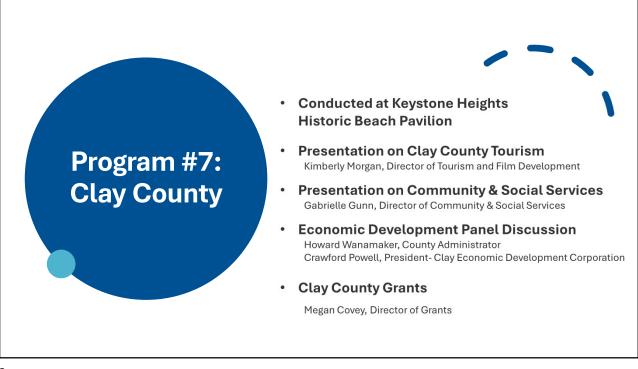
RE: 2024 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UPDATE

On August 28th, the 2024 RLA Cohort concluded its 2024 program at Jacksonville University. During its eighth and final session, the group toured the JU Marine Science Research Institute, had a presentation by LISC Jacksonville on the recent RCI annual initiative concerning Heirs Property, and participated in a panel discussion titled "I Ran for Office," where individuals who have run for political office shared their experiences.

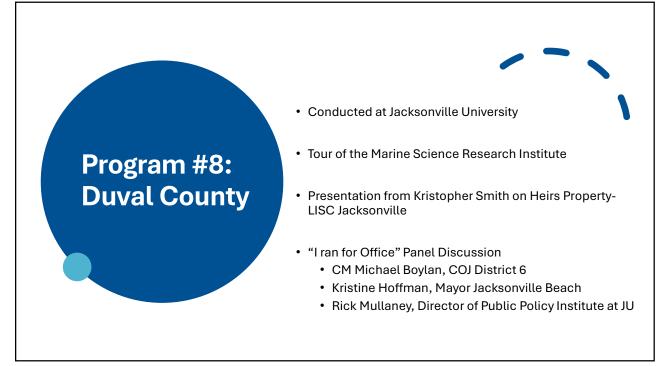
Additionally, the application for the 2025 RLA Cohort is now available.

Regional Leadership Academy Update

1

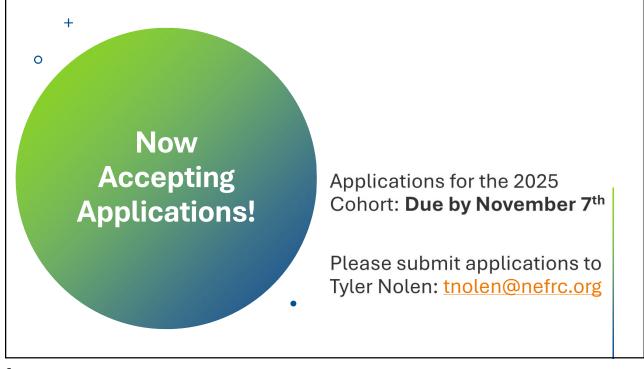








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MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

To: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tyler Nolen, Special Projects Coordinator FROM:

RE: WEBSITE UPDATE

NEFRC staff have been updating the NEFRC website to enhance its functionality and improve user experience. These updates aim to provide clearer information, easier navigation, and more accessible resources for our community and stakeholders.

The new features will include:

- A refreshed design to align with our current branding.
- Improved navigation to help users find information more easily.
- Updated content to reflect our recent initiatives, programs, and achievements. Including a place for the First Coast Well-Being Index
- Enhanced access to documents, news articles, and council calendar.

The website is undergoing live testing, and some minor design tweaks are still in progress. We encourage you to explore the new site and share any feedback or recommendations. Your input is invaluable in ensuring our website serves our community effectively.



